

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor T Martin) in the Chair

Councillors	Allan	Forbes, D.	Morrissey	Timmins
	Anderson	Forbes, M.	O'Connor	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Foster	Old	Trueman, H.
	Bell	Francis	Oliver	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Gibson, E.	Padgett	Walker
	Bonallie	Gibson, P.	Richardson, D.	Walton, J.
	Charlton	Gofton	Richardson, I.J.	Walton, L.
	Copeland	Hall, A.	Rolph	Watson, P.
	Dixon, M.	Howe	Shattock	Watson, S.
	Dixon, P.	Kay	Smith, D.	Williams
	Ellis	Kelly	Snowdon	Wilson, A.
	Emerson	McClennan	Speding	Wilson, D.
	Errington	MackKnight	Stewart	Wood
	Fairs	Mordey	Tate	Wright, A.
	Fletcher			

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 June 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record.
- (ii) the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 8 September 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record subject to an amendment to reflect the attendance at the meeting of Councillor A. Hall.
- (iii) the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 10 September 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the following items for the reasons indicated:-

Item 7(i) – Report of the Cabinet – Capital Programme Outturn 2009/10 and First Capital Programme Review 2010/2011	Councillor Charlton	Member of Sunnyside Partnership Governor Hylton Red House Academy
	Councillor P. Watson	Member of Sunnyside Partnership Member of Sunderland Partnership
	Councillor Speding	Member of the Joint Committee for the North of England Open Air Museum (Beamish)
	Councillor D. Wilson	Member of the Joint Committee for the North of England Open Air Museum (Beamish)
Item 7(ii) – Report of the Cabinet – Revenue Budget Outturn for 2009/10 and First Revenue Budget Review for 2010/2011	Councillor Charlton	Member of Sunnyside Partnership
	Councillor P. Watson	Alternate Director Newcastle International Airport Limited Director Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Company Member of Sunderland Arc Member of Safer Sunderland Partnership Chairman of Sunnyside Partnership
	Councillor D. Wilson	Member of Safer Sunderland Partnership
	Councillor Gofton	University of Sunderland Board of Governors
Item 7(iii) – Report of the Cabinet – Final Approval of Sunderland's Economic Masterplan	Councillor Gofton	University of Sunderland Board of Governors
Item 7 (v) – Report of the Cabinet – Youth Justice Plan 2010/2011	Councillor P. Watson	Member of Safer Sunderland Partnership
	Councillor D. Wilson	Member of Safer Sunderland Partnership

Item 7(vii) – Report of the Cabinet – Review of Members’ Allowances Scheme

Councillor Allan, Anderson, Ball, Bell, Blackburn, Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, M. Dixon, P. Dixon, Ellis, Emerson, Errington, Fairs, Fletcher, D. Forbes, M. Forbes, Foster, Francis, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Gofton, A. Hall, Howe, Kay, Kelly, McClennan, MacKnight, T. Martin, Mordey, Morrissey, O’Connor, Old, Oliver, Padgett, D. Richardson, I. Richardson, Rolph, Shattock, D. Smith, Snowdon, Speding, Stewart, Tate, Timmins, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Wakefield, Walker, J. Walton, L. Walton, P. Watson, S. Watson, Williams, A. Wilson, D. Wilson, Wood and A. Wright

Member of Council

Item 7(viii) – Report of the Cabinet – South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership – PFI Update

Councillor H. Trueman

Member of South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Executive Committee

Councillor Blackburn

Member of South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Executive Committee

Item 11 – Notice of Motion on Academic Achievements and the Cancellation of BSF Funding

Councillor Tate

Governor of Hetton School

Councillor M. Forbes

Governor of St. Anthony’s Catholic Girls’ School

Councillor Wood

Governor of St. Aidan’s Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided School

Councillor Oliver

Governor of Farrington School

The following Councillor declared personal and prejudicial interests in the following item in respect of the reason indicated and left the Chamber during consideration thereof:-

Item 9 – Written Questions	Councillor Kay	Provider of future jobs fund vacancies through the City Region and the Council
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Mayor’s Announcements

(i) Strategic Risk Award

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Allan informed the meeting of the Council’s success in the Alarm (Association for Local Authority Risk Management) Awards.

Stacy Hodgkinson won the Young Achiever of the Year for Risk Management.

The Mayor formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

(ii) 4 Children National Star Awards

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Stewart informed the meeting of the Council’s success in the National Star Awards.

Councillor Stewart thanked the young people, parents and carers who had contributed to the huge success of the project and the Mayor formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

(iii) Retirement of Mr. Bob Rayner, Chief Solicitor and Mr. George Blyth, the Director of Financial Resources from the Authority.

The Mayor spoke on the retirement of Mr. Bob Rayner, Chief Solicitor, and Mr. George Blyth, Director of Financial Resources. He expressed gratitude and paid tribute to their service to the Council and wished them a long and happy retirement.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petitions, submitted by the Councillors respectively named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council’s Petitions Scheme, to the Officers indicated below:-

- (i) Councillor Howe – petition from residents of Rockville, Fulwell regarding traffic issues along Rockville – Executive Director of City Services.
- (ii) Councillor McClennan – petition requesting the provision of a safe school crossing patrol for Valley Road Community Primary School – Executive Director of City Services.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Chamberlin, Cuthbert, Essl, Heron, Maddison, L. Martin, Miller, Scaplehorn, J.B. Scott, J. Scott, P. Smith, Tye, Vardy, Wake, N. Wright and T.H. Wright.

The Cabinet reported as follows:-

1. Capital Programme Outturn 2009/2010 and First Capital Programme Review 2010/2011 (including Treasury Management)

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Financial Resources which had detailed:-

- the Capital Programme Outturn for 2009/2010;
- the outcome of the First Capital Review for 2010/2011 taking account of the Capital Programme Outturn 2009/2010;
- changes made to the Capital Programme 2010/2011 since its approval; and
- an update on progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

They had also referred the report to the Management Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration. The Committee had agreed with the inclusion of the additional schemes and amendments in resourcing the Capital Programme since it had been approved by Council in March 2010.

Accordingly the Cabinet had recommended that Council approve the inclusion of the additional schemes and amendments in resourcing the Capital Programme as set out in the report.

2. Revenue Budget Outturn for 2009/2010 and First Revenue Budget Review for 2010/2011

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Financial Resources which had detailed the Revenue Budget Outturn for 2009/2010 and the First Revenue Review 2010/2011 and, specifically, the approval of the virement of funds.

They had referred the report to the Management Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration in the context of the virement of funds in the report relating to an earmarked reserve for pressures arising from the economic downturn and the Children's Placement Strategy Review together with transfers to the Strategic Investment Reserve to provide for capital programme priorities and the Improvement Programme. The Scrutiny Committee had agreed with the issues of virement as set out in the report.

Accordingly the Cabinet had recommended that Council approve the virement of funds as outlined in the report.

3. Final Approval of Sunderland's Economic Masterplan

That they had given consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (copy circulated) seeking approval of the Sunderland Economic Masterplan, to agree to its adoption as the Prosperous City Chapter of the Sunderland Sustainable Community Strategy and to approve the governance arrangements that needed to be put in place to deliver the Economic Masterplan.

They had also referred the report to the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee. The Committee had welcomed the report and commented as follows:-

- the Masterplan was aspirational and needed a 'wow-factor' in order to retain young people in the City;
- outward migration had been an issue for many years and was an ongoing problem;
- the difficulties of attracting investment to the City in times of recession;
- the problems of the benefits culture and high levels of unemployment;
- the need to create a civic identity for Sunderland;
- the need to ensure students felt safe in the City;
- the benefits of improving the public transport system in Sunderland such as the re-introduction of a tram network or the provision of electric buses;
- the problems associated with the slow pace of development of both the Holmeside and Vaux sites;
- City Centre development should not be to the detriment of outlying retail centres in Washington, Houghton and Hetton;
- development may be hindered given the reluctance of the banks to make finance available;
- the lack of top quality hotel accommodation was a factor in delaying the development of the City as a visitor attraction.

The Cabinet had recommended the Council to:-

- (i) approve the Sunderland Economic Masterplan;
- (ii) agree to the establishment of an Economic Leadership Board to be responsible for overseeing its delivery; and
- (iii) agree to the establishment of a set of Aim Delivery Groups to manage the day to day activity required.

4. Government Grant Reductions for 2010/2011 and the Emergency Budget

That they had given consideration to a report of the Director of Financial Resources (copy circulated) which had provided details of the impact of Government grant reductions for 2010/2011 and subsequent amendments to

the revenue budget and capital programme for 2010/2011 in the light of the reductions. The report also provided details of the Coalition Government's Emergency Budget and the emerging medium term financial position.

They had also referred the matter to the Management Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration and the Committee had accepted the report.

The Cabinet had recommended the Council to approve the proposed actions set out in Section 3 of the report in respect of addressing the Government grant reductions for 2010/2011 and subsequent amendments to the revenue budget and capital programme for 2010/2011 to accommodate those reductions.

5. Youth Justice Plan 2010/2011

That they had given consideration to a report of the Acting Executive Director of Children's Services (copy circulated) seeking approval to the publication and distribution of the Youth Justice Plan 2010/2011. The report had outlined the background, purpose and intentions of the Plan.

They had also referred the report to the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee for further advice and consideration. The Committee had considered and endorsed the Youth Justice Plan prior to its submission to the Youth Justice Board.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to consider the contents of the report and approve the Youth Justice Plan 2010-2011 and agree to its publication and distribution.

6. Updating the Constitution

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) which had proposed further amendments to the Constitution.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to note and endorse as appropriate:-

- (i) the amendments to the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committees and the Audit and Governance Committee;
- (ii) that the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development in consultation with the Director of Financial Resources, be granted delegated powers to consider and, where appropriate, approve all future requests for flexible retirement where it was considered to be in the employer's interest to approve the request, subject to such decision being reported to Personnel Committee for information and subject also to the right of appeal to the Personnel Committee against any such refusals being conferred upon the employee;

- (iii) to give notice of its intention to apply Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 in its area and that it was intended such restrictions should come into force on the date that was two months after the date on which the resolution was passed (to regulate further sex establishments); and that the delegated powers of the Executive Director of City Services be revised to reflect new legislative requirements as set out in the report to the Licensing Committee of 6 September 2010 (copy circulated).
- (iv) the Protocol for Members in relation to licensing matters be amended as set out in the report to Licensing Committee of 6 September 2010 (copy circulated).
- (v) the arrangements for the transfer of delegated powers and the position of Monitoring Officer set out in paragraph 4.5.1 of the report, to give effect to the Council's revised management structure.

7. Review of Members' Allowances Scheme

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive, the Director of Financial Resources and the Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) on proposals for a review of the current Members' Allowances Scheme and for the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel which would make recommendations to the Council on the allowances to be paid to Members.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommended the Council to:-

- (i) agree that a review of the current Members' Allowances Scheme be undertaken; and
- (ii) agree that the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer be given delegated powers to take all necessary action to facilitate the review including the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

8. South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership – PFI Update

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of City Services (copy circulated) on the procurement process to date and financial costs in relation to arrangements for residual waste treatment services Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Project by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to:-

- (i) note and endorse the procurement process to date; and

- (ii) agree that the total financial costs over the lifetime of the project and the commitment to meeting the annualised cost, as set out in paragraph 5.1 in the body of the report; be approved as an amendment to the budget.

They had also referred the report to the Management Scrutiny Committee for advice and consideration.

The Committee had considered the report and the following comments and enquiries had been raised at the meeting:-

- the relationship between Council funding and site ownership;
- would the Council benefit from the sale of commercial outputs;
- further information was required regarding technical issues such as the disposal of different kinds of waste;
- the cost of having a Waste Management Solution for Sunderland only.

Members of the Committee had commented that their ability to come to an informed decision as to whether to recommend the Council to amend the budget to include the financial costs of the Project was limited given these outstanding enquiries which remained commercially sensitive.

The Leader of the Council, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, moved the report of the Cabinet.

Councillor M. Forbes, seconded by Councillor Morrissey, then moved that Item 8 of the Cabinet report be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration in the light of the implications and costs of the PFI Project.

Upon being put to the vote, the reference back was defeated with 42 Members voting against, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor T. Martin)

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Mordey	Tate
	Anderson	Foster	O'Connor	Timmins
	Ball	Gibson, E.	Old	Trueman, D.
	Bell	Gibson, P.	Padgett	Trueman, H.
	Blackburn	Gofton	Richardson, D.	Walker
	Bonallie	Hall, A.	Rolph	Watson, P.
	Charlton	Kay	Shattock	Watson, S.
	Copeland	Kelly	Snowdon	Williams
	Dixon, P.	McClennan	Speding	Wilson, A.
	Emerson	MacKnight	Stewart	Wilson, D.
	Errington			

And 16 Members voting for, viz:-

Councillors	Dixon, M.	Forbes, M.	Oliver	Walton, J.
	Ellis	Francis	Richardson, I.J.	Walton, L.
	Fairs	Howe	Smith, D.	Wood
	Forbes, D.	Morrissey	Wakefield	Wright, A.

It was, accordingly:

RESOLVED that the views of the Scrutiny Committees be noted and the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

The Audit and Governance Committee reported and recommended as follows:-

1. Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2009/2010

That they had given consideration to a report by the Director of Financial Resources and Chief Solicitor (copy circulated) on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2009/2010, being the first Annual Report to Council.

Accordingly, the Committee had recommended that Council note the Annual Report on the Work of the Audit and Governance Committee 2009/2010.

2. Treasury Management Review of Performance 2009/2010

That they had given consideration to a report by the Director of Financial Resources (copy circulated) on 29 June 2010 on the annual borrowing and investment performance for the financial year 2009/2010, produced in accordance with the requirements of the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy, agreed by Council, and reported to Council to comply with the requirements of the new CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

The report had also been noted at the Cabinet meeting held on 21 July 2010.

Accordingly, the Committee had recommended Council to note the Treasury Management Review of Performance 2009/2010.

RESOLVED that the report of the Audit and Governance Committee be noted.

Written Questions under Rule 8.2

Pursuant to Rule 8.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Action Taken on Petitions

The Council received the undermentioned reports on action taken in relation to petitions which had been presented to Council.

(i) Petition requesting that the Council takes action to deal with vehicles parked at the junction of Crow Lane and the A690 causing difficulty for drivers and pedestrians. Presented by Councillor Robert Oliver on 25th November 2009

The former Development and Regeneration Directorate (D & R) had received a request in relation to this matter from Councillor Robert Oliver on 8th February 2009. Records from the former D & R directorate had indicated that following a meeting on site on the 10th February 2009 it had been agreed with Councillor Oliver that a scheme to extend existing waiting restrictions on Durham Road for a distance of 10m into Crow Lane would be implemented, subject to satisfactory consultation regarding the proposed traffic regulation order. However the scheme as proposed was not progressed at that time.

Following receipt of the petition on 25 November 2009 the Executive Director of City Services, in consultation with local ward members and the portfolio holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, approved the petition request and instructed officers to take action to ensure that the scheme was delivered as part of the year's (2010/11) Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital programme. It was anticipated that the scheme would be completed during the autumn 2010.

Cllr Robert Oliver and the Lead Petitioner were to be notified.

(ii) Petition from residents of Lakeside Towers requesting the provision of additional parking for residents. Presented by Councillor Alan Wright on 31st March 2010

The petition had been signed by 291 residents.

The Executive Director of City Services had considered the petition and following consultation with Councillor Blackburn, Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, had determined that the petitioners' request should be declined on the grounds that the Council had no duty or funding available, to provide residential parking facilities. Instead, the petitioners were to be advised to approach Gentoo directly about their request for additional parking.

Councillor Wright and the lead petitioner had been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(iii) Petition requesting the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Silksworth Road in the vicinity of Oakfield Court. Presented by Councillor Alan Wright on 24th June 2009

The Executive Director of City Services had considered the petition and following consultation with Councillor Blackburn, Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, had determined that the petitioners' request should be declined on the grounds that the location did not meet the required criteria in terms of pedestrian/vehicular conflict, the numbers of pedestrians wishing to cross and the accident history.

Councillor Wright and the Manager of Oakfield Court Retirement Housing had been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(iv) Petition requesting Urgent Action to be taken to make improvements to Hetton Cemetery, in respect of repairs to roads, pathways and fencing, better maintenance of landscape and inclusion of floral displays to make the cemetery a better resting place and attractive to visitors. Presented by Councillor Tate on 27 January 2010

The petition had contained 838 signatures.

Officers of the City Services Directorate had inspected the cemetery and the action identified below had been taken to make some immediate improvement:

- footpaths were treated to limit growth of moss,
- railings received preparation work to enable paintwork to be carried out, and
- the conifer hedge facing Houghton Road was reduced in height and trimmed.

In addition to this a technical survey of all pathways and roads in the cemetery was underway in order to identify necessary remedial works and funding implications.

Grounds maintenance standards would be monitored and grass cutting commenced in April 2010. The floral beds were replanted in early summer (May – June 2010) as part of the regular maintenance of the Cemetery and would continue to be maintained.

Further work on walls and footpaths would be progressed when resources become available.

Councillor Tate and the petitioners had been notified of the Executive Director's decision.

(v) Petition from local residents requesting the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Mill Hill Road. Presented by Councillor E. Gibson on 14 June 2010.

Officers of the City Services Directorate had met with local Ward Councillors to discuss the petition and a possible solution to resolve the issues raised. It had been agreed that traffic refuges would be constructed along Mill Hill Road along with hatching to narrow the road to provide both a variety of safer places to cross the road and also to slow traffic down along it. The works were to be funded using a mixture of Area Committee and Local Transport Plan funding. Local residents had been consulted and work was about to start on site to construct the scheme.

- (vi) Petition from local residents requesting traffic calming in the area around Leafields and Faber Road and expressing concern over the lack of consultation on the play park and anti-social behaviour caused by this play park. Presented by Councillor R. Copeland on 14 June 2010.**

Officers of the City Services Directorate had completed investigations into the issues raised in the petition. The area was undergoing a major transformation and as part of this the road network was being modified to deal with these changes. The local Ward Councillors had been consulted. A formal decision was anticipated to be made in the week commencing 11th October 2010

- (vii) Petition from local residents requesting the extension of parking restrictions in the Leazes. Presented by Councillor P. Dixon on 14 June 2010.**

Officers of the City Services Directorate had inspected the site to determine the extent of the parking issues. At the time of the inspection soon after the petition was received there had been no issues observed that warranted acceding to the request. However officers had been mindful that the parking problems were dominated by students at the University parking their cars in the locality and at the time there were few students attending the university. Therefore surveys would be organised to be undertaken in late September and early October when the University was fully in session and then a fully considered response to the petition would be prepared.

Notices of Motion – Academic Achievements and the Cancellation of BSF Funding

Councillor Stewart, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved the following motion in relation to Academic Achievements and Cancellation of BSF Funding:-

“This Council wishes to congratulate all our students in the academic achievements they have reached this summer, culminating in the best set of GCSE results in the City’s history. In doing so, we recognise that to achieve their best, students need high quality teachers and resources to ensure they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

This Council therefore reaffirms its current commitment to education as a top priority, but recognises that ensuring all pupils reach their full potential requires equal commitment from central government. It therefore notes with regret and disappointment the recent actions of the new coalition government – such as the cancelling of BSF funding – have called into question their commitment. This Council therefore urges the coalition government in its autumn spending review to reverse these cuts and reaffirm their commitment to quality education for all.”

Councillor Allan moved that an extension of the time limit for Councillor Stewart’s speech be agreed by Council and on being put to the meeting the extension was agreed.

Councillor Morrissey moved, and was duly seconded, that an extension of the time limit for Councillor Wood's speech be agreed by Council and upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 14 Members voting for the extension, viz:-

Councillors	Dixon, P.	Francis	Smith, D.	Walton, L.
	Ellis	Morrissey	Wakefield	Wood
	Fairs	Oliver	Walton, J.	Wright, A.
	Forbes, M.	Richardson, I.J.		

39 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Allan	Fletcher	Mordey	Timmins
	Anderson	Foster	Old	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Gibson, E.	Padgett	Trueman, H.
	Bell	Gibson, P.	Richardson, D.	Walker
	Blackburn	Gofton	Rolph	Watson, P.
	Bonallie	Hall, A.	Shattock	Watson, S.
	Charlton	Kay	Snowdon	Williams
	Copeland	Kelly	Speding	Wilson, A.
	Emerson	McClennan	Stewart	Wilson, D.
	Errington	MacKnight	Tate	

and one abstention, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor T. Martin).

Councillor Stewart then replied to the points raised in the debate on his motion.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried, with 44 Members voting for, viz:-

The Mayor (Councillor T. Martin)

Councillors	Allan	Errington	Mordey	Timmins
	Anderson	Fletcher	Old	Trueman, D.
	Ball	Foster	Padgett	Trueman, H.
	Bell	Gibson, E.	Richardson, D.	Wakefield
	Blackburn	Gibson, P.	Rolph	Walker
	Bonallie	Gofton	Shattock	Watson, P.
	Charlton	Hall, A.	Smith, D.	Watson, S.
	Copeland	Kay	Snowdon	Williams
	Dixon, P.	Kelly	Speding	Wilson, A.
	Ellis	McClennan	Stewart	Wilson, D.
	Emerson	MacKnight	Tate	

And 10 Members voting against, viz:-

Councillors	Fairs	Howe	Walton, J.	Wood
	Forbes, M.	Morrissey	Walton, L.	Wright, A.
	Francis	Oliver		

It was, therefore:

RESOLVED that this Council wishes to congratulate all our students in the academic achievements they have reached this summer, culminating in the best set of GCSE results in the City's history. In doing so, we recognise that to achieve their best, students need high quality teachers and resources to ensure they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

This Council therefore reaffirms its current commitment to education as a top priority, but recognises that ensuring all pupils reach their full potential requires equal commitment from central government. It therefore notes with regret and disappointment the recent actions of the new coalition government – such as the cancelling of BSF funding – have called into question their commitment. This Council therefore urges the coalition government in its autumn spending review to reverse these cuts and reaffirm their commitment to quality education for all.

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken under Rule 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

RESOLVED that the report be noted

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies – The Port Board, the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, the Northumbria Centre Sports Trust, Raich Carter Sports Centre Management Board and the Sunderland Sports Council

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Council to consider its representation on the Port Board, the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, Northumbria Centre Sports Trust, Raich Carter Sports Centre Management Board and the Sunderland Sports Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor P. Watson moved that the recommendations contained in the report be approved, and it was:-

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Mr. Keith Wilson be appointed as a co-opted member on the Port Board;
- (ii) the resignations of Professor G. Holmes and Mr. S. Laverick from the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee be noted and Mr. Kevin Morris and Ms. Suzanne Duncan be appointed as replacement representatives;

- (iii) Mr. Alan Patchett, Director, Age UK, be appointed as a co-opted member on the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee for the year 2010/2011;
- (iv) the Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City be nominated as the Council's representative on the Northumbria Centre Sports Trust, the Raich Carter Sports Centre Management Board and the Sunderland Sports Council in place of the Portfolio Holder for Safer City and Culture;
- (v) the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities and the Head of Planning and Environment be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Limestone Landscapes Partnership Board.

(Signed) T. MARTIN,
Mayor.